

Annual Report 2022-2023



ACGC

ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

Our Vision

All people can fulfill their **potential and prosper**, become engaged citizens in **peaceful, just, and inclusive** societies, and thrive in a **healthy, sustainable** world.

Our Mission

Mobilize Albertans to become **global citizens** engaged in sustainable development. We do this by **building the capacity** of network organizations, **representing** members' interests with government and others, and increasing the **awareness, knowledge, and connections** of Albertans in global issues and sustainable development.

Our Values

Respect, Inclusiveness, Equality, Empowerment, Human Rights, Collaboration, Accountability, Transparency, Sustainability, and Mutual Learning.



“Let us make no small plans.”

With the pandemic in the rear-view mirror, the desire to reconnect and re-establish connections has never been stronger. As a council, we were relieved to once again offer our programs in person, and were pleased to see member organizations finally able to travel internationally, host their long-awaited fundraisers and events, and welcome international guests to connect within their communities.

Throughout the year, we reconnected with leaders of our past to chat about our network’s history, and retrieved archival records in preparation to mark the upcoming 50th year. While many of the documents unearthed are fascinating in themselves, those small words, “let us make no small plans” - written inside the first annual report of ACGC’s predecessor Alberta Committee of International Agencies - truly stuck out. Perhaps so, as it feels like a motto for Alberta’s international cooperation organizations, you do not make small plans. You make bold, audacious plans, take risks, and innovate - and it is truly inspiring.

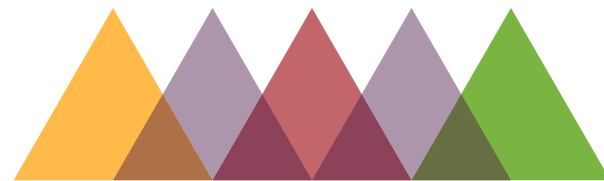
While new ways of working and lessons learned throughout the pandemic will take years to process, of

one thing we are sure: we need to prioritize connecting as a community and work each and every day to further our collective mission for global social justice. The core values that brought people together in the early years of the network continue to resonate in our post-pandemic world, and the need to create awareness of global issues, support our international partners, and engage with government to ensure an enabling environment for civil society to flourish, has never been stronger.

Indeed, it is not a time for small plans. Instead, it’s a time for bold action together, so that we may realize a more just and sustainable world for all.



Leah Ettarh, Executive Director & **Lorraine Swift**, Chairperson



975
YOUTH
ENGAGED

PROGRAM
PARTICIPANTS
3368

438 014
REACHED
ONLINE

EDUCATORS
SUPPORTED
533

208
ORGANIZATIONS
IMPACTED

Our Impact

Promoting Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Formal and informal opportunities for learning are critical to building the capacity of organizations to ensure more effective community development. The ACGC Annual Conference 2022, themed *Trailblazing New Paths*, featured keynote speakers and showcased innovations designed and tested by Alberta-based international development organizations and their partners that tackle poverty and inequality. Our second *Confluence* leadership program, held in Banff, was attended by executive directors and senior leaders from international development organizations and featured various subject-matter experts. Through the Inter-Council Network's *Spur Change* program, we facilitated a nation-wide results-based management training and a gender learning series, with an ACGC member presenting at the latter, and supported spaces for Global Affairs Canada-funded small and medium organizations to come together and share information and best practices.

Providing a platform for exchange, discussion, and dialogue, where deep issues can be explored, is a critical function of the council. With pandemic restrictions lifted, we were able to re-engage communities through multiple opportunities, including hosting an afternoon exploring Alberta perspectives on foreign policy with the Canadian Partnership for Women and Children's Health (CanWaCH) and the Canadian International Council (CIC), as well as an online international dialogue with MacEwan University on the impact of the war in Ukraine from a youth perspective. We also had the pleasure of working with Public Interest Alberta and Colombia-based organizations Gaia Amazonas and Asociación de Capitanes Indígenas de Yaigojé Apaporis (ACIYA) to host Macuna Indigenous leaders for a roundtable discussion with community and Indigenous leaders in Edmonton on the impact of Canadian mining in their territory.

Another function we hold is ensuring that Albertans engage in forums where they can contribute perspectives and share their learnings back with their organizations and with other Alberta-based organizations. We started the year by supporting three member organizations to attend and host a panel discussion on engaging youth in global initiatives at the annual Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) conference in Halifax, and we ended the year sending one member to attend the 67th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, exploring the topic of rural technology.

It was certainly a very fruitful year, as we continued to prioritize bringing together communities of like-minded citizens to discuss emerging issues, building capacity, and learning from each other.



The 2022 Confluence Leadership Program in Banff was attended by executive and senior leaders from various international development organizations.

National Collaboration For A Stronger Sector

ACGC continues to play an active role in international and social development activities on a national level in order to bring the perspective of Alberta-based organizations to nation-wide conversations, and to ensure this information is shared back within Alberta. During the year, the executive director finalized her two-year term on the board of Cooperation Canada, an opportunity which continues on a rotational basis for provincial and regional councils, and participated in their *International Cooperation Futures Festival* in October. These opportunities are critical to ensure representation and information exchange on behalf of member organizations.

Advocating for stable and increased funding to support global partners continues to be a priority concern in national conversations. The third funding intake for the *Development Impact Window - Canadian Small and Medium Organizations for Impact and Innovation* through Global Affairs Canada was completed in May, while the ICN's *Fund for Innovation and Transformation* (FIT) announced funding for the fifth and final cohort of innovations in June, which included four Alberta-based organizations. As these programs come closer to their end, the ICN has worked to showcase the impact these SMOs and their partners are making around the world, and to advocate for continued support.

Through the ICN's *Spur Change* program, managed by ACGC, we are able to support SMOs through knowledge sharing and capacity building. After a delay from fall 2021 given heightened waves of the pandemic, *Spur's* national conference returned and was hosted by the Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (AQOCI) in Montreal in May. Following research conducted by the ICN, we hosted a training on feminist, anti-racist, and decolonial approaches to public engagement in Calgary in February.



When funding was extended one more year for the Canada SDG Youth Awards, it became a priority for ACGC to find a future home for the awards in a youth-led organization. This led to a partnership with ReImagine17, a national youth collective, to host the awards in March 2023. ReImagine17 will continue to host the youth awards into the future in close collaboration with the Together|Ensemble movement.

We were pleased to end the year with an exciting announcement by the Honourable Harjit Sajjan, Minister of International Development, on the extension of funding to the provincial and regional councils for an additional three years. This long-term support from Global Affairs Canada ensures we can continue the local work of engaging Canadians and supporting Alberta-based organizations and their international partners.



With over 170 attendees, the *Spur Change* National Conference in Montreal brought together SMOs and educators to explore the theme of 'Peace Beyond the Absence of War.'

Supporting Global Citizenship Education

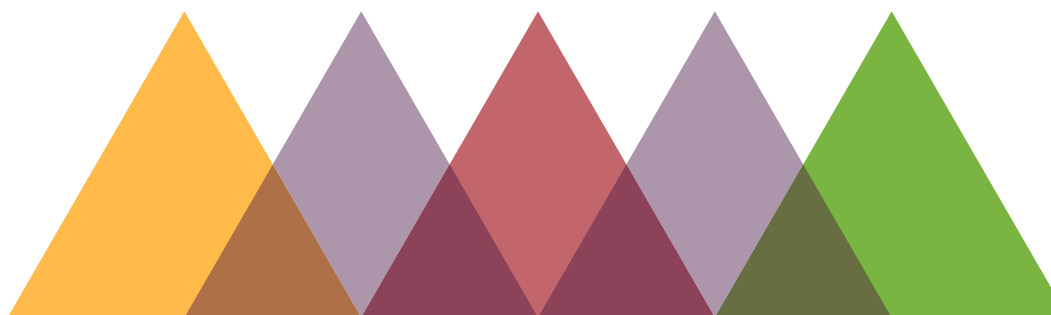
The pandemic severely impacted our school communities, disrupted learning, and created excess burden and stress on educators. As restrictions lifted, we began to increase our support and opportunities for educators and school-aged children and youth. ACGC continued to support an educator community of practice during the pandemic, offering opportunities for educators to learn from each other as well as from ACGC member organizations on global citizenship education and emerging global issues. One such emerging issue was the feminist “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement in Iran that was sparked by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini. With heightened global attention to this movement, we were able to work with the Center for Global Education to host an online dialogue where Iranian women shared their perspectives, offering youth the opportunity to better understand the complexity of the situation.

This year, we completed the final stage to *A Better World is InSight*, a project in partnership with the Saskatchewan Council for International Cooperation (SCIC) and the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) bringing global development stories to youth and members of the public using a 360° video cylinder and interactive workshops. With the video cylinder in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, ACGC developed do-it-yourself media kits, with a teacher’s guide and cardboard viewers compatible with cell phones that provided an immersive video experience. We had the opportunity to test out the kit with multiple schools in the fall. With the Calgary and Edmonton teachers’ conventions back in-person for the first time since the pandemic started, we were able to set up booths to showcase and distribute the kits to interested schools.

ACGC will continue to support school communities by offering resources, opportunities for dialogues, and providing connections to organizations working internationally.



ACGC consultant Muhammad Khan is demonstrating the 'A Better World is InSight' cardboard viewer at the 2022 ACGC Annual Conference Innovation Fair at the University of Alberta.





Engaging Youth In Meaningful Opportunities

Engaging youth in international cooperation and solidarity initiatives continues to be a priority of the council. This year, we focused on winding down two youth programs and starting a new one. Since 2019, ACGC's *SDG Hub* program has been working with small cohorts of youth to guide them through learning, sharing, and taking action on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This year, the fifth and final cohort of youth engaged in a retreat and received mentorship and support throughout the year while creating an action project or volunteering with an organization, addressing issues in which they are passionate about. A similar initiative, as part of the ICN's *Spur Change* program, also saw its fourth and final cohort of the *Youth Champions Program* launch, featuring eight Canadian youth and seven youth from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Zambia, Nepal, The Gambia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Operated fully online, the youth engaged in a training program to learn about public engagement, and are mentored by Canadian small and medium organizations to engage communities on critical issues.

Yet as these two programs wrapped up, ACGC was pleased to launch a new experiential youth program in Alberta called *Global Connect*. This program engages youth in dialogue and practical hands-on learning to deepen understanding of international cooperation by traveling across Alberta, meeting with Alberta-based international cooperation organizations, and engaging with community leaders. One of these youth was selected to join the ICN's youth delegation attending the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March.

Our deep engagement work continues to be complemented by our *Top 30 Under 30* initiative, which this year showcased youth taking meaningful action on SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities. The *Top 30* celebration returned in-person with the 12th annual event taking place in Calgary, welcoming Jyoti Gondek, the Mayor of Calgary, as well as an international *Top 30* youth, Wannet Dim, who joined us from Cambodia.

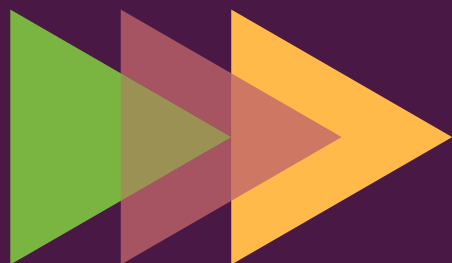
As our programs shift and change, we continue to evolve our programming in order to respond to the needs of youth and strengthen our approach.



The 2023 Top 30 Under 30 Celebration Event took place at the Central Library in Calgary on February 9 and featured designs by Aravani Art Project, a trans-women and cis-women-led art collective based in India.

Our Finances

2022-2023



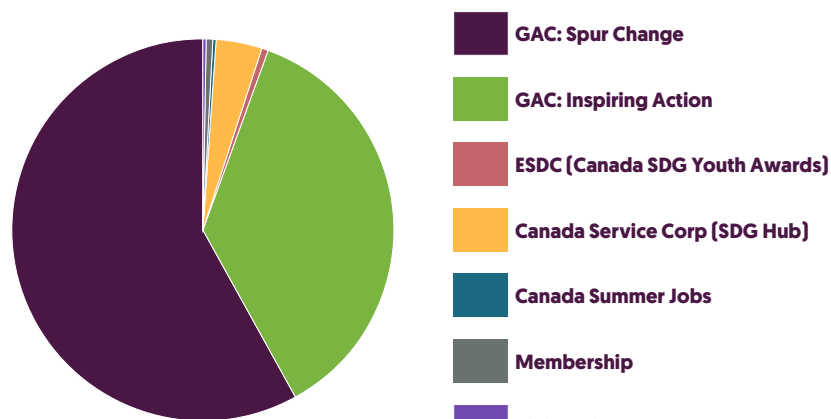
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT MARCH 31, 2023

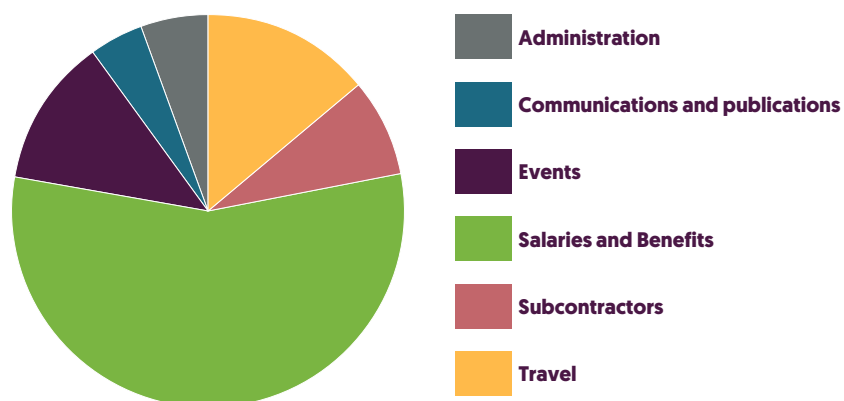
	2023	2022
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 587,016	\$ 949,764
Accounts receivable	17,531	8,442
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,151	1,183
	606,698	959,389
CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 3)	1,952	2,143
	\$ 608,650	\$ 961,532
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 67,957	\$ 65,367
Deferred contributions (Note 6)	338,048	765,837
	406,005	831,204
NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	1,952	2,143
Unrestricted	84,176	57,679
Internally restricted (Note 7)	116,517	70,506
	202,645	130,328
	\$ 608,650	\$ 961,532

For full audited statements visit
<https://acgc.ca/about-us/our-finances-and-policies/>

2023 Revenue

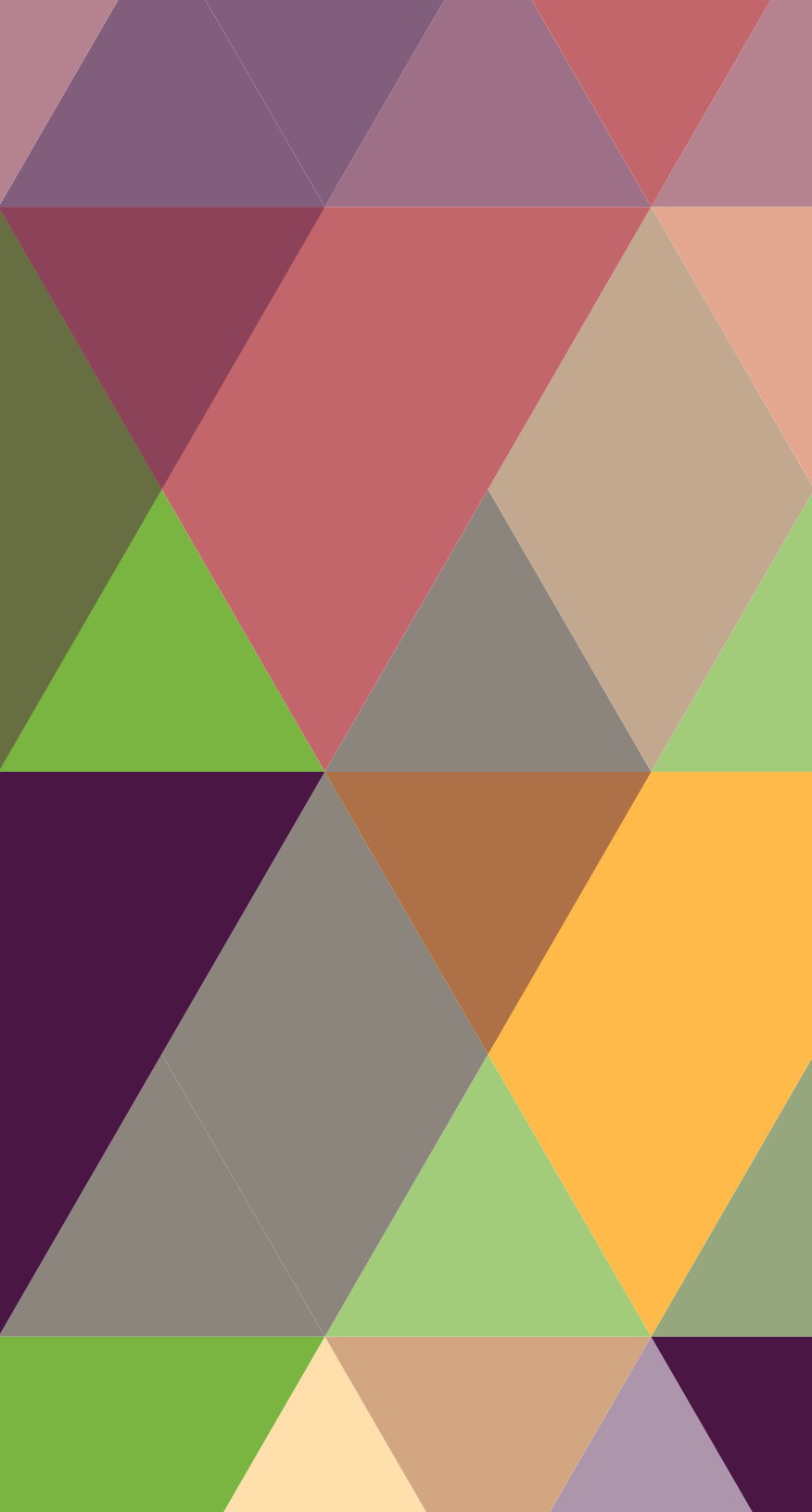


2023 Expenses



STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	2023	%	2022	%
REVENUE				
GAC grant: Spur Change (Note 8)	\$ 912,831	57.9	\$ 638,945	48.5
GAC grant: Inspiring Action	569,079	36.2	507,846	38.4
SDG Awards	10,253	0.7	89,692	6.8
Alberta SDG Hub	58,401	3.7	52,567	4.0
Canada summer jobs	4,641	0.3	9,406	0.7
Membership	9,298	0.6	-	-
Colleges and Institutes Canada	-	-	9,164	0.7
Workshop	1,000	0.1	750	0.1
Other income	40	-	10,040	0.8
Interest income	1,494	0.1	108	-
Civil Society Fund	6,230	0.4	-	-
	1,573,267	100.0	1,318,518	100.0
EXPENSES				
Administration	79,440	5.0	73,528	5.6
Amortization	1,553	0.1	1,930	0.1
Communications and publications	66,156	4.2	69,880	5.3
Events	183,297	11.7	58,941	4.5
Salaries and benefits (Note 9)	838,670	53.3	858,754	65.1
Subcontractors	118,888	7.6	162,531	12.3
Travel	212,946	13.5	42,278	3.2
	1,500,950	95.4	1,267,842	96.1
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ 72,317	4.6	\$ 50,676	3.9



Our Funders

ACGC is appreciative of the support from the following institutional partners that made our work possible during the year.



In partnership with
Canada



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Alberta
Government

Our Leadership

CHAIR

Lorraine Swift – *Change for Children Association*

VICE-CHAIR

Beverley Carrick – *Embrace International Foundation*

TREASURER

Aditya Chaudhuri – *Engineers Without Borders - Calgary Professional Chapter*

SECRETARY

Benazir Rahman – *University of Calgary International*

MEMBER AT LARGE

Flora Trebi-Ollennu – *Trebi Ollennu Foundation for Community Development*

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Daniel Zopoula – *Bridges of Hope*

Greg Sowak – *NorQuest International*

Karen Joe – *Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology*

Kristin Poch – *Operation Eyesight Universal*

Murwarid Ziayee – *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan*

Paulina Lazarini – *Sombrilla International Development Society*

Shawn Heinz – *University of Alberta International*

Tahira Ebrahim – *Bow Valley College*

Leah Ettarh – ACGC Executive Director



Our Partners

ACGC is a member of the **Inter-Council Network (ICN)**, a coalition of the eight Provincial and Regional Councils for International Cooperation. ACGC operates the *Spur Change* program on behalf of the ICN and also collaborates with the *Fund for Innovation and Transformation (FIT)*, operated by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation on behalf of the ICN, promoting knowledge sharing within Alberta. ACGC is also a member of **Cooperation Canada**, a coalition of Canadian civil-society organizations working in the international development and humanitarian sector.



Accreditations

Fair Trade Workplace: ACGC is proud to be a Fair Trade Workplace certified by the Canadian Fair Trade Network.

United Nations ECOSOC: As of June 2019, ACGC holds Special Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



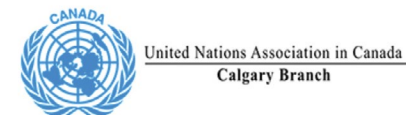
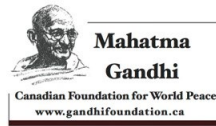
Commitments

As a member of **Cooperation Canada**, ACGC adheres to its Code of Ethics, which ACGC has adopted as its own. ACGC is also a signatory of the *Leaders' Pledge on Addressing and Preventing Sexual Misconduct*, and the *Anti-Racism Framework for Canada's International Cooperation Sector*.

Our Members



Our Members





ACGC
ALBERTA COUNCIL FOR
GLOBAL COOPERATION

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General Email: info@acgc.ca

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